

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 926

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5836

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GB, US, UK, FR, UR

SUBJECT: QUADRIpartite AMBASSADORIAL LUNCHEON

REF: BONN 08810

1. FRG REPRESENTATIVE GAUS COMMENTED INFORMALLY TO DCM AT A SOCIAL OCCASION ON JUNE 10 CONCERNING AMBASSADOR HENDERSON'S REMARKS (AT THE JUNE 2 QUADRIpartite AMBASSADORIAL LUNCHEON) ABOUT THE BRIEFING OF ALLIED EMBASSIES IN BONN ON INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS (PARA 1 REFTEL).

2. GAUS SAID HE RECOGNIZED THERE WAS A PROBLEM IN THE FLOW OF INFORMATION, BUT SAID IT WAS NOT TO BE BLAMED ON HIM. THERE WERE DIFFICULTIES IN COORDINATION BETWEEN THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE TO WHICH HE REPORTS, AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WHOSE REPRESENTATIVES DEAL WITH THE ALLIED EMBASSIES. HE SAID HE WAS TAKING IMMEDIATE STEPS TO IMPROVE THE BRIEFING OF ALLIED EMBASSIES. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE AND HIS STAFF
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WOULD CONTINUE TO DISCUSS INNER-GERMAN AFFAIRS, AS PERCEIVED

FROM THE VANTAGE POINT OF EAST BERLIN, WITH ALLIED
AMBASSADORS AND MEMBERS OF THEIR STAFFS STATIONED HERE.

3. COMMENT. WE WERE SOMEWHAT PUZZLED BY AMBASSADOR
HENDERSON'S FORMULATION OF THE PROBLEM. AT NO TIME
HAS GAUS DISPLAYED TO US AN "APPARENT EFFORT TO LIMIT
BRIEFINGS (ON HIS TALKS WITH EAST GERMAN OFFICIALS ON
VARIOUS POTENTIAL AGREEMENTS AFFECTING WEST BERLIN
AND QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES) TO THE
ALLIED EMBASSIES IN EAST BERLIN." HE HAS, IN FACT, NEVER
BRIEFED THE EMBASSY ON THESE MATTERS. THE FRENCH AND
BRITISH, WHO HAVE RECEIVED SIMILAR REPORTS ON THE QA
LUNCHEON), INFORM US THAT THE WORD "BRIEFING" IS, IN
THEIR VIEW ALSO, AN INCORRECT DESCRIPTION OF THE INFORMAL
EXCHANGES THAT HAVE INEVITABLE OCCURRED AMONG ALLIED
DIPLOMATS AND FRG REPRESENTATIVES ON A MATTER AS CENTRAL
TO GDR INTERESTS AS INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS. IT
WOULD BE UNNATURAL NOT TO DISCUSS SUCH QUESTIONS IN THE
FREQUENT AND INTIMATE CONVERSATIONS THAT TAKE PLACE HERE.
THE FRENCH AND BRITISH, MORE THAN OURSELVES, HAVE
ACTIVELY SOUGHT INFORMATION ON INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS
FROM WORKING-LEVEL COLLEAGUES AT THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIONS. THEY TELL US THEY HAVE REPORTED
SUCH INFORMATION WITHOUT COMMENT IN ORDER TO ADD TO THE
SUM TOTAL OF WHAT THEY AND WE KNOW ABOUT INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS,
AND TO KEEP OPEN MORE THAN ONE SINGLE SOURCE FOR
ACQUIRING SUCH INFORMATION. COOPER

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